



Sh'mos

25 b'Teves 5781 • Friday, January 8, 2021

Shabbos M'vorchim

Candle Lighting (20 min.)	5:12 PM
Mincha / Kab. Shabbos	5:15 PM
Shabbos Kollel	8:15 AM
Shacharis	9:00 AM
Last Shema (Gr"a)	10:21 AM
Mincha	Kollel: 4:00 PM GMS: 4:50 PM
Sunset	5:34 PM
Ma'ariv	6:10 PM
Shabbos ends (40 min.)	6:14 PM

The Week of Jan. 10

	S	M	TU	W	TH	F
Shach.	8 AM			6:40 AM		
Earliest T & T		6:57	6:56	6:56	6:56	6:55
Mincha		5:20 PM				

Virtual Beis Midrash

www.golfmanorsynagogue.org

Daf Yomi	Sunday	7-8 AM
	Weekdays	6-6:30 AM
Derech Hashem		
	Mondays	8:00-8:40 PM
Hands-On Halacha		
	Tuesday	7:30-8:10 PM

Hebrew Reading in the Social Hall
Sundays 8:00 PM

Shmuel Plotsker's classes:
712-770-4945, access code 664943#

Intro to Talmud 101 (Chagiga 4a)	Mon/Wed/Fri	10:30-11:15 AM
Intro to Midrash (B'reishis Rabbah)	Sundays	8:45-9:45 AM
When Moshiach Comes/Kol haTor	Mondays	1-2 PM
Tanach Tuesdays (M/W)		
	I Kings 20	7:30-8:30 PM

Sponsors

Rabbi Stuart & Karen Lavenda, in memory of their son Yonah Gavriel, whose *yahrzeit* starts Sunday night.

Dr. Robert and Mrs. Elizabeth Alt, commemorating the *yahrzeit* of Obbey Alt, Avraham ben R' Dovid, whose *yahrzeit* is 25 b'Teves

Rabbi Menachem & Miriam Deutch, fulfilling a pledge made last Shabbos, in gratitude to Hashem for a *refu'ah shleimah* for the entire Deutch family. May He bless all *cholei Yisroel* with *refu'os shleimos!*

Shul Announcements

Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat will be **this Thursday**, January 14.

NO PARKING: The "pull-in lane" on Stover Avenue in front of the shul is not for parking—it is for drop-off only. GMPD has warned that they will issue tickets to cars that are parked there.

Hands-On Halacha, with Rabbi Alt, has just started a new topic: *Bikur cholim*, visiting the sick. It's a great time to join! Tuesday evenings, 7:30-8:10 PM.

Sefarim for sale: Rabbi Rafael Cohen-Soae of Eretz Yisroel recently visited Cincinnati, and he left a number of his *sefarim*, which will be on display in the board room, and available for purchase. His books are all in English, designed to provide the reader with an understanding of the core principles of a wide range of Torah topics. \$25 per volume; all proceeds support Rabbi Cohen-Soae's Yeshiva in Eretz Yisrael. Please speak to Rabbi Alt to purchase.

In the Community

Mazal tov to Zev & Naomi Herzog and family, on the birth of a boy. The *Shalom Zachar* will be held privately. Bris will be Monday, 27 b'Teves, *bshtu"m*; Zoom details to follow. To send the Herzogs b'rachos and good wishes, e-mail willherzog@gmail.com.

Mazal tov to the extended Raubvogel family, on the upcoming wedding of Tzivia Raubvogel and Tzvi Beilin, *b'sha'a tova umutzlachas*. Women are invited to a walk-by, grab-and-go Shabbos Kallah 3-4:30 PM this Shabbos at the Raubvogel residence, 2428 Vera Avenue.

The Eruv is sponsored this week by Steven Cahn, in honor of Shoni Golin-Cahn's birthday.

Virtual B'nos Bikur Cholim Event for high school girls and ladies: Monday, January 11, 8:30 pm. Informative & practical tips for social-ly-distanced *bikur cholim* from Rebbetzin Faigie Horowitz—a writer, Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist (CAPS), and community activist in Lawrence, NY. Call in to (425) 436-6277, access code 244274#.

The Cincinnati Eruv is raising funds to purchase a bucket truck. Invest in the future of our *eruv* at <http://www.cincinnatiervuv.org>, or send donations to The Cincinnati Eruv, PO Box 37303, Cincinnati OH 45222.

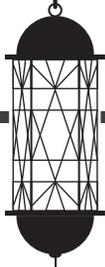
COVID Relief: Help is available for individuals and families in need. Please contact Rabbi Alt: RabbiAltGMS@gmail.com

Now is the time for extra vigilance and extra tefillos, to keep our community safe.

Refuah Sh'laima

- Bracha Leah bas Rochel Mushka (Barbara Nagler)
- Eitan Chaim ben Elisheva (Ethan Kadish)
- Gavriel ben Pesha (Gary Walsh)
- Chana Rivka bas Ethel (Juanita Weiss)
- Nesanel ben Chaya Rochel
- Tzvi Michael ben Leah (Hirsch Wise)
- Daisy bas Lulu (Mrs. Daisy Kattan)
- Z'ev Shmuel ben Malkah Rochel
- Reuven ben Malkah
- Simcha Leib haLevi ben Devorah
- Esther Hitzel bas Gitel (Esther Deutch)
- Bunim Tzemach Aharon ben Leiba (Barry Silver)
- Tziporah Yehudit bas Yona Malka

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Rabbi Stuart Lavenda RABBI EMERITUS
Rabbi Hanan Balk RABBI EMERITUS
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Between Kings

V'Dibartah Bam

THE TORAH IS REplete WITH LESSONS THAT ARE relevant to our daily lives and current events. Sometimes we must delve deeply to find the connection. Sometimes it jumps out at us.

This week we all heard the news of the violent protests that stormed the Capitol, as the Congress certified President-elect Joe Biden as the incoming President of the United States of America. In this week's parsha (of all parshiyos!), we find a commentary from the Vilna Ga'on that speaks volumes to the anarchy we have witnessed.

During those many days, [while Moshe was living in Midian,] the king of Egypt died; the Children of Israel groaned because of the work, and they cried out... (Shemos 2:23, as explained by Rashi)

The Vilna Ga'on asks, why would Pharaoh's death be the cause for groaning? What is the connection?

The Ga'on answers that even the cruelest king is held in check by the law. A king is not willing to defy the law and commit a public crime, for fear that his actions will trigger civil unrest and lead to a rebellion. The Vilna Ga'on explains that this is what is meant by the pasuk in Mishlei:

The king, in justice, will uphold the land... (29:4)

This pasuk is not saying that a king *applies* justice to uphold the land. What it means is that a king *who is kept in check by the law* upholds the land.

The Vilna Gaon uses this concept to answer another question about this week's parsha. Pharaoh's first attempt to preempt the rise of a Jewish leader was to instruct the Jewish midwives to kill every male baby. Our sages explain that Pharaoh showed the midwives a way to determine if the baby was a boy or girl before it was fully born, which would allow the midwives to kill the baby during birth and tell the mother that it was a still born. The Vilna Gaon asks, why did Pharaoh tell the midwives to kill the baby boys specifically *before* they were fully born, requiring a special method to determine the gender? He should have simply told the

midwives to kill every baby boy, by whatever means necessary!

The Vilna Gaon explains that killing a fully-born baby would have been an overt violation of the law, a clear act of murder. However, killing a child before birth was something Pharaoh felt he could "get away with."

The Vilna Gaon goes on to write that the greatest anarchy happens in times of transition. After Pharaoh had died, before a new Pharaoh had been coronated, the Egyptians were left with a sense that there was no law, that "anything goes." This caused a uniquely bitter period in the Egyptian slavery, when the Jewish people suffered under unbridled cruelty that was not limited by the law. Thus, "The Children of Israel groaned because of the work, and they cried out..."

The lesson here is two-fold.

Firstly, we have a deepened appreciation of the importance of law and order. Both in Biblical Egypt and in modern-day America, we see that, in times of transition from one sovereign to another, we are left vulnerable to anarchy and cruelty. This acts as a powerful reminder that a strong system of law and order must always be maintained.

Secondly, we come face-to-face with the unsettling reality that mankind cannot be trusted. This reality is all too easy to forget. Living in a civilized society, with

anarchy happens in times of transition

a strong sense of law and order, allows us to develop a feeling that we are safe and sound, a security that no one around us would ever do us harm. The eye-opening realities of what some of our fellow people are willing and even anxious to do, as soon as they feel that the law cannot stop them, is truly chilling.

We must never forget that, ultimately, we rely on Hashem to protect us. Even the most civilized of societies can turn to chaos in the blink of an eye. It behooves us to respond as our ancestors did in Egypt, to cry out to Hashem for redemption. May Hashem hear our heartfelt prayers, and redeem us from this exile as He redeemed us from Egypt so many years ago.

Good Shabbos,
Rabbi Yosef Alt